

Story 1860 (1984 Tape 6)

Narrator: Ali Çiftçi, farmer; by then he must have been in his late 60s or early 70s

Location: Çıkırıkçı village, Sarıkaya kaza, Yozgat Province

Date: February 984

The Extended Hour

There was a widow 333 years before the time of the Blessed Jesus who had an only child, a son. That boy was a very virtuous person. His goodness and his kind deeds were on every tongue.

During the time of the Blessed Jesus, someone said to that prophet, "O Blessed One, utter whatever prayer is necessary to bring that excellent boy back to us briefly. We should like to ask him some questions."

After the Blessed Jesus had addressed his prayer to Allah, he was granted his request. The virtuous boy actually returned to this world. One of those who witnessed this miracle said to the boy, "You died 333 years ago, but your good works and kindness are still being talked about by everyone."

The boy was greatly surprised by this remark. He asked, "What are you talking about? Have I really been dead for 333 years? When my soul passed from this mortal world, and they placed my body in the

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soil, a very beautiful girl¹ came to me, and we soon began to talk with each other. After our conversation had continued for a short while, I touched her pearl necklace and accidentally broke the string on which the jewels were strung. While I was picking up the pearls from the ground, you called me here.”

This story shows us that 333 worldly years are equivalent to only an hour of heavenly time. If you have been a virtuous person and have performed good deeds, such a great number of years will pass very quickly.²

¹The narrator did not use the word houri in referring to this girl, but the translator inferred that it was such a heavenly maiden that he had in mind.

²This tale makes the same point made by ATON 816 and 1474: “A day in Thy (God’s) court is better than a thousand” (Psalms 84:10) and “A thousand years in Thy sight are as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night” (Psalms 85:4).